

REMARKS:

New claims 11-19 have been added to further define the present invention.

Claims 1-19 are in the case and presented for consideration.

Claims 1-10 have been amended to further distinguish over the cited prior art and to overcome the objections to the claims.

First Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1, 2, 8, 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nichols US2003/0199351 in view of Livermore US 1,115,557 and further in view of Woolnough et al.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1, 2, 8, 9 and 10. Claim 1 has been amended to still further distinguish over the prior art. It is, therefore, respectfully submitted that independent claim 1, as amended, is patentable over Nichols in view of Livermore and further in view of Woolnough et al. for and at least the following reasons. Claims 2, 8, 9 and 10 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for the same reasons as claim 1.

According to the present invention, the peripheral toothed portion of the motorcycle sprocket, which is connected to the central portion by rivets, includes radial beams located within pocket-like recesses of the central portion. Clearances exist between the side walls of the radial beams and the circumferential walls of the pocket-like recesses. The presence of the clearances are significant because they permit the peripheral toothed portions to deform in the event that the rivets are overloaded. Examples of such peripheral toothed portion deformations caused by overloading of the rivets, are shown in the pictures

attached as Exhibits 1 and 2 hereto. By permitting such deformation, the present invention dampens the extreme forces which the rivets may experience and reduces their tendency to break. Further, if and when the side clearance between the radial beams and the circumferential walls disappears as a result of an overload, the absence of such side clearance provide a signal that the peripheral toothed portion should be replaced.

Still further, by permitting deformation of the peripheral toothed portion, (i.e., by providing a side clearance between the radial beams of the peripheral toothed portion and the circumferential walls of the pocket-like recesses), there is less fatigue on the peripheral toothed portion and therefore less of a tendency of the peripheral toothed portion to break.

Even assuming arguendo, that Nichols, Livermore and Woolnough et al. may be properly combined, that combination would not render claim 1 unpatentable because the combination will fail to disclose the claimed side clearance between the radial beams of the peripheral toothed portions and the circumferential walls of pocket-like recesses. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1, and claims 2, 8, 9 and 10 dependent therefrom, are allowable over the cited prior art.

Second Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 3-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nichols US2003/0199351 in view of Livermore US 1,115,557 and further in view of Woolnough et al. as applied to claim 2 above, and further in view of Gapp et al. US 3,685,391.

It is respectfully submitted that Claims 3 and 7, being dependent from claim 1, are patentable for the same reasons, as stated above, that claim 1 is patentable.

Applicant has endeavored to make the foregoing response sufficiently complete to permit prompt, favorable action on the subject patent application. In the event that the

Examiner believes, after consideration of this response, that the prosecution of the subject patent application would be expedited by an interview with an authorized representative of the Applicant; the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (845) 359-7700.

Applicant respectfully submits that by this Amendment, the application has been placed in condition for allowance and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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